many Young Americans will vote in 2012 elections for the their





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MILLENNIALS ROCK THE VOTE!



HOW DIFFERENT ARE MILLENNIALS?

- > Are more **EDUCATED** and less likely to start a family early.
- > Face tougher economic challenges, but are still **UPBEAT** about the future.
- Are more COMFORTABLE with immigration and interracial marriage.
- Are more racially and ethnically DIVERSE and overwhelmingly think diversity is good for the country.
- > Hold more **PROGRESSIVE** views on social issues, the role of government and U.S. international engagement.

This issue of eJournal USA looks at how the Millennials—Americans born from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s—are changing the face of the U.S. electorate and politics. How are they different from previous generations? What is at stake for the Millennial Generation in the November 2012 election? Are they joining the two major U.S. political parties? And why do they support various candidates and causes?

You will find answers to many of these questions in a Facebook debate between young Democratic and Republican activists (PAGE 2), in blogs by campaign volunteers (PAGE 5) and in the Millennial generation portrait grounded in recent data (PAGE 12). In a cartoon strip on the youngest member of the U.S. Congress (PAGE 8), you can learn how being young—once considered a political liability—can be turned into a political advantage.

What is clear is that young Americans remain optimistic and committed to democracy, even as they face the most challenging economy and job market since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

— The Editors

WHATS STAKE?

WHY BOTHER TO VOTE?

We invited college-age Democrats and Republicans to discuss U.S. political parties and the 2012 elections. Logan Brog, Benjamin Howard and Aditi Ghai joined a debate in a Facebook chatroom. Managing editor Andrzej Zwaniecki moderated.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT IDEA OR PRINCIPLE THAT DISTINGUISHES YOUR PARTY FROM YOUR POLITICAL OPPONENTS?

LOGAN For me, the Democratic Party represents America's diversity. Democrats favor progress over conservatism, believe that everyone deserves an equal opportunity to succeed under the law, and support a robust social safety net to protect the least advantaged. Additionally, Democrats seek a solution to global climate change and a principled-yet-pragmatic foreign policy.

ADITI For me, it is Republican Party's humanist sense of the individual, a belief that individuals have the opportunity to define their own future, to succeed on their own merits, and to do so without unnecessary interference or intervention from the government. This idea is similar to that sense of "opportunity" that Logan mentioned; I just see it as much more expansive on the Republican platform.

BENJAMIN Democrats think that opportunity is important too. That's why we support education, health insurance, financial regulation, and environmental regulations, which give all people the opportunity to succeed, even if they are underprivileged. It's often difficult for people to exercise their rights if they don't have the means to do so, which is why we as Democrats want to level the playing field.

ADITI I don't think support for those issues that you just mentioned is exclusive to Democrats. Republicans deeply care about the above mentioned issues too. It's just a question of extent and priority. You cannot ignore the reality that we have a finite amount of resources. Allocating an excessive amount of any given resource to one issue necessarily diminishes the amount you have left to devote to all others. Whether you want to define this trade-off between two issues, say education and welfare, or between two generations, the harms of over-committing resources are obvious.



LOGAN V. BROG Student and outreach director for Dartmouth College Democrats.



BENJAMIN HOWARD Student and Obama campaign volunteer at New York University.



ADITI GHAI
Student and vice
president of the Harvard
College Republicans.

YOUR GENERATION IS ENTERING ADULTHOOD AT A CHALLENGING TIME FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY. DO YOU THINK THAT THE 2012 ELECTIONS CAN CHANGE THAT?

ADITI Elections in themselves can't, but the elected and the policy they enact can. In short, yes. I am not ignorant nor do I believe that the current economic downturn was entirely the fault of our sitting president. But I do believe that the policies he enacted exacerbated it. If those policies are reversed I think that a lot can change for better.

BENJAMIN Democrats, including the president, have taken steps to boost the chances that the economy recovers, that employment opportunity improves, and that the social safety net survives. While it's not entirely up to the government how the economy does, voting for the right party can have a huge impact.

ADITI Elections are also about our nation's morale. They can bring about a psychological change and consequently effect real change in our economy and social wellbeing. President Obama has failed to reconcile his agenda with the current reality, failed to bring about the change he promised, and therefore has negatively impacted our nation's morale. It's time for someone new who can pick it up, and with it pick up the economic and political standing of our nation in the international community.

LOGAN The 2012 presidential election is a really consequential one. Republicans are threatening to repeal President Obama's health care reform, which will provide health insurance to millions of additional Americans. New financial regulations, which protect many hard-working Americans, are also in jeopardy. Additionally, as most Republicans do not "believe" in climate change, they would not work to solve key environmental issues if they win. Finally, Democrats support increased funding for infrastructure projects, which will make it easier for businesses to thrive.

Millennials say:

I would be more likely TO VOTE upon receiving...

FACEBOOK MESSAGE 65%

TEXT MESSAGE **58%**

EMAIL 38%

PHONE CALL

13%

Source: 2012 Generation Opportunity report

My preferred means of communicating with friends...

49%
IN PERSON

33%
TEXTING

4%
PHONE
7%
WEBSITE
8%
OTHER

Source: "Social Media, Social Life" report by Common Sense Media



LOGAN



BENJAMIN



ADITI

WHY SHOULD YOUNG AMERICANS JOIN THE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC PARTY RATHER THAN VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO BEST REPRESENT THEIR VIEWS?

ADITI They shouldn't. I think it's only appropriate to affiliate with a party when your personal and self-defined views overlap with the views of a given party. Otherwise, it's quite frankly silly for an individual to join a party and adopt its views as his or her own. This runs contrary to the individualistic spirit that I discussed earlier. I am a Republican because I support personal enterprise and small government. I do not support personal enterprise and small government because I am a Republican.

LOGAN There are three main reasons one should consider joining a party. First, in many states one must be a Democrat to vote in a Democratic primary election, or a Republican to vote in Republican primary election. Second, a party affiliation allows one to influence the party platform [the positions the party takes on major issues]. An affiliation with a political party also makes it easier to campaign and to make your voice heard. Finally, many people who agree with one core Democratic principle will also agree with others.

BENJAMIN I'll just reiterate that joining a party and influencing its policies is a great way to express yourself politically.

ANY FINAL THOUGHTS?

BENJAMIN Becoming politically active and trying to influence the way the government is run is an important part of being a citizen. For a long time, the Democratic Party has fought for the rights of young people and been the place where young people can become leaders and influence the policies that shape their lives.

ADITI The saying goes that if you're not a Democrat by 20 you lack a heart, and if you're not a Republican by 40 you lack a brain. But especially in this day and age, the heartwarming and exaggerated promises of change coming from the Democratic Party are not enough to combat our nearly \$16 trillion national debt or our 8.2 percent unemployment rate. I don't disagree with any of the issues that Logan or Ben have identified, I just don't see how they can commit themselves to all these issues at once unless their "commitment" is purely rhetorical, lacking backing from concrete action.

LOGAN The Democratic Party is fundamentally about responsibility — taking care of our neighbor, our country, our environment and our world. Progress requires a universal commitment toward our common welfare, and it is Democratic policy ideas that move us toward that goal.

CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER

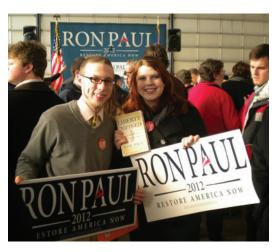
INSIGHT INTO VOTERS' THINKING

I have been a supporter of Ron Paul since 2007. Getting to work for his 2012 campaign in New Hampshire was a real treat.

I want to live free, I want my children to live free and I want their children to live free. As Ron Paul says, every generation deserves to live free. To be a part of a movement that promotes liberty, honesty and limited government is to be a part of a movement that wants to make America a freer nation.

Working on the campaign was tough. I and other volunteers had long days, short nights and made thousands of phone calls during preparations for the primary in New Hampshire. It was completely worth it. Nothing is more satisfying than talking to complete strangers on the phone, trying to convince them that they should vote for Ron Paul.

Talking to people was very personal and gave me a lot of insight into their thinking and the political process itself. The most important thing I learned was that while I had made up my mind on my presidential candidate for years, most people are completely undecided right up to the end. Convincing a number of undecided people to choose Ron Paul felt fantastic.



Cody Segraves (left) Vice Chairman, Youth for Paul, Gettysburg College

INCH BY INCH TO VICTORY

I am campaigning for President Obama's re-election because I share his vision for America.

I believe that every American has a fundamental right to health care; that the United States must transition to a cleaner, greener economy; and that government should play a role in aiding those who are less fortunate.

As a campus organizer at my university, I work with other students, campaign staff and the larger com- Logan V. Brog munity to energize and mobilize our region to vote for Obama. We knock on



Outreach Director, Dartmouth College Democrats

doors, distribute information, hold events, speak with friends and community members, and host debates against those who do not share our political views to ensure that everyone knows why this election - and his or her vote - is critical to the success of our shared democracy. There is no better feeling than convincing a voter that my candidate is their candidate, too: Each oneon-one conversation inches the campaign closer to victory.

In my experience, elections are not won by money, candidates or actions supported by them; elections are won by the hard work of volunteers engaging people in local communities. The stakes are just too high to stay home and be complacent. The success of my country depends on my candidate. My candidate depends on people like me.



Aditi Ghai Vice President of the Harvard College Republicans

WORTHY EXPERIENCE, RAIN OR SHINE

Campaigning is really just socializing with a purpose.

My experience as a student volunteer with the Romney campaign has involved phone banking, going door to door, organizing student support for rallies, and a myriad of other activities. These activities have afforded me the opportunity to engage with the American voter. By the same token, they have enabled me to identify the issues that are truly important for the population, and evaluate how the position of my candidate corresponds with the general sentiment of this nation.

More important, campaign interactions compel me to constantly consider where I stand, who I stand with, and why I stand where I do on many of the most pressing issues facing our nation and the increasingly interdependent international system to which it belongs. Taken together, these conversations develop my political knowledge, reinforce my political passion, and stimulate my political curiosity in a way that makes even a Saturday morning campaign trek through the snow—in New Hampshire—seem incomparably pleasant.

SHAPING MY POLITICAL CAREER

I am passionate about campaigning for Romney, simply because he will improve America more than anyone else can.

His fiscal expertise, executive experience in the public sector (as a governor) and private sector (as chief executive of Bain Capital, a private equity firm), integrity, and compassion make him the clear presidential choice.

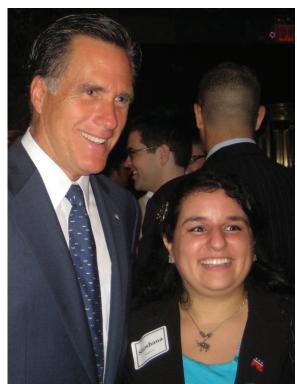
Campaigning is second nature to me, but I especially enjoy activities in which I have personal interactions with voters: I learn what's really important to them. Their voices are useful in gauging how the American people might respond to different campaign events. Much of what I hear on the campaign trail is directly in line with Governor Romney's ideas.

I believe voters' opinions will also help shape my political future as my dream is to be a U.S. senator, or at least work in government and engage in political life. The more I interact with and listen to voters, the better I can serve them through my own career.

Out of all the campaigns for which I have volunteered, Romney's campaign has taught me the most and has been the most personally fulfilling. I have learned so much about organizing a presidential campaign, including the division of labor.

In December, I met and shook hands with Romney's son Josh. He exclaimed, "Oh my gosh, your hands are so cold!" I was in awe. The Romneys are known to be kind people. However, not until then did I realize just how wonderful they are! The experience strengthened my belief that Mitt Romney needs to be president!

Shoshana Weissmann Students for Mitt Romney, George Washington University





Mike Place
Media Coordinator, NYU Students
for Barack Obama

CHANGE WITHIN REACH

Participating in the New York University (NYU) Students for Barack Obama group, I have had the great opportunity of working with young, passionate and driven volunteers.

By far my most rewarding experience has been the opportunity to speak with a wide range of individuals about what matters most to them. Listening to concerns of residents in Chester, Pennsylvania, campaign supporters in Boston, Massachusetts, or fellow students at NYU, I realized what a great opportunity it was to interact with people on such a personal level.

Also, after hearing their voices, I now recognize that listening to ordinary people is the best way of understanding the problems we face in America.

Campaigning has taught me that change is always within reach. Running a voter registration for NYU students, I have witnessed aspirations for the future of America turn into action and empowerment. This was clearly evident when NYU Students for Obama received a large and excited group of volunteers, who participated in registering students to vote.

Campaigning has taught me that change is always within reach.

For me, such an experience has truly emphasized the importance of political engagement no matter the level or scale. Moreover, as the time comes to elect the president, I will be happy to have done my part.

According to Millennials,

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

the U.S. faces are:

- 1. CREATING JOBS
- 2. REDUCING THE FEDERAL DEFICIT
- 3. ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- 4. LOWERING TAXES

Source: Survey of Young Americans' Attitudes Toward Politics and Public Service, Institute of Politics, Harvard University; April 2012

SCHOCK

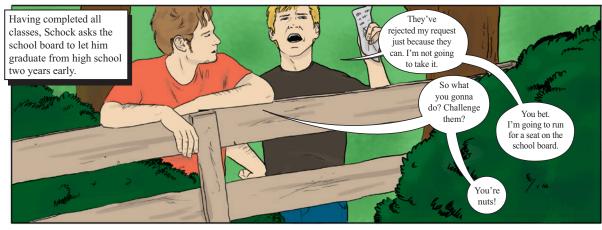
TO THE SYSTEM

Illustrated by Chris Piers

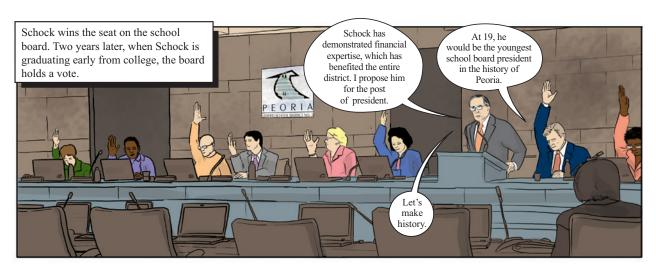


Aaron Schock has been the United States Representative for Illinois's 18th congressional district since 2009. At the age of 31, Schock, a member of the Republican Party, is both the youngest currently serving U.S. representative and the first member of the U.S. Congress born in the 1980s.

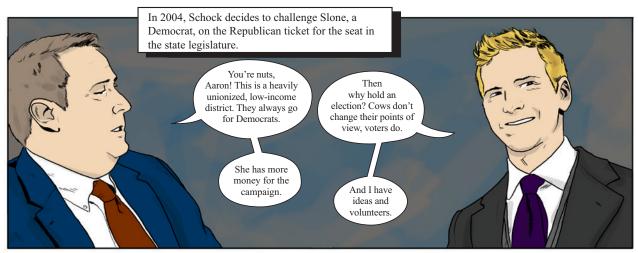












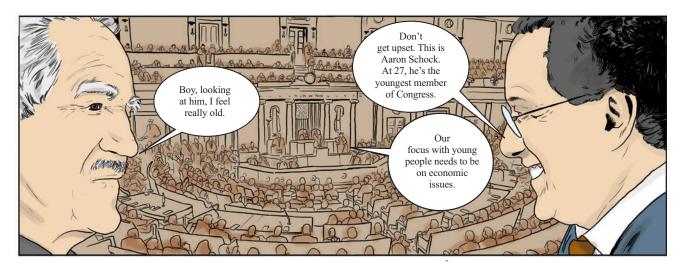
SCHOCK TO THE SYSTEM CONTINUED









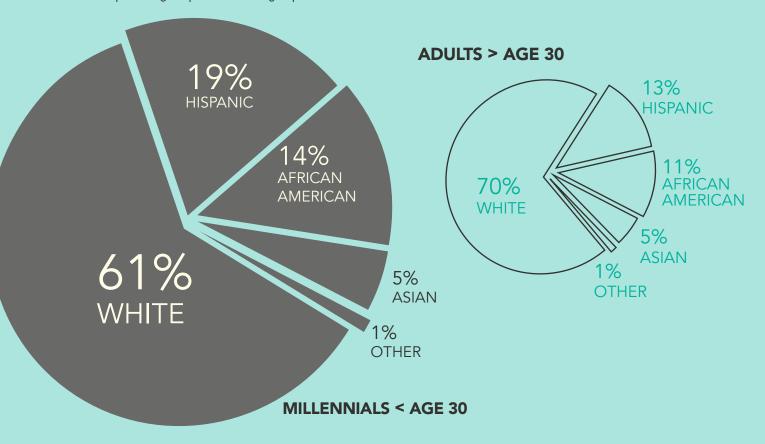




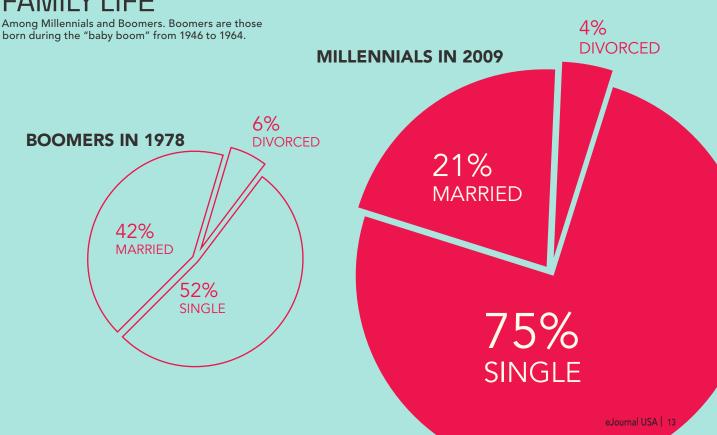


NEW MIX IN THE MELTING POT

The percentage of particular racial groups in the United States

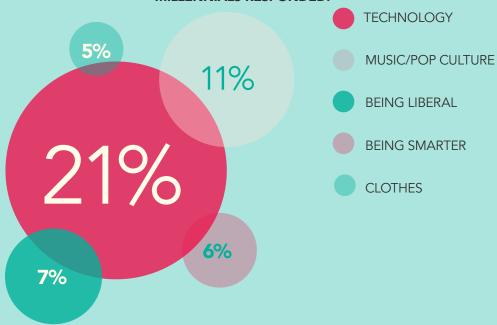






MILLENNIALS ON THEMSELVES









of 16-24-year-olds wish to start a business, or have already started one

Source: 2010 PEW Research Center's report "Millennials: A Portrait of Generation Next"



DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Percentage of Millennials who use each mode of communication at least once per day

TEXTING 68% | SOCIAL NETWORKING 51% | EMAIL 30% | INSTANT MESSAGING 19% | VIDEO CHAT 8%

Source: "Social Media, Social Life" report by Common Sense Media

ON THE ISSUES OBAMA

In 2012, President Obama is the Democratic Party candidate for the presidency.







On American Values

We're not all tied together by ethnicity or a single religion. What ties us together is this idea that everybody has got a shot. As long as you carry out your responsibilities, you can make it. You can get into the middle class and beyond. And you can start a company and suddenly help bring the whole world together. That's what makes this country outstanding. (...)

[This] requires us to both have a commitment to our individualism and our freedom and our creativity and our idiosyncrasies. But it also requires us to have a commitment to each other. So you and I are sitting here because somebody, somewhere, made an investment in our futures. We've got the same obligation for the folks who are coming up behind us. We've got to make sure that we're looking out for them, just like the previous generations looked out for us.

Twitter Town Hall, July 6, 2011

On Innovation

Innovation has always been driven by individual scientists and entrepreneurs. (...) But innovation has also flourished because we as a nation have invested in the success of these individual entrepreneurs, these inventors, these scientists.

In this country, from the moment you have a new idea, you can explore it in the world's best labs and universities; you can develop it with a research grant; you can protect it with a patent; you can market it with a loan to start a new business. You've got a chain that takes a great idea all the way through, and



that's something that we as a nation have always invested in. It's how we as a people have advanced ideas from the earliest stages of research to the point where you can hand it off and let the private sector run with the ball. It's how investments and basic research led to things like the computer chip and GPS, and millions of good jobs.

Remarks at Penn State University, February 03, 2011

On Space Exploration

We are still a leader in space exploration. (...) The shuttle did some extraordinary work in low-orbit experiments, the International Space Station, moving cargo. It was an extraordinary accomplishment and we're very proud of the work that it did. But now what we need is that next technological breakthrough. (...)

And what you're seeing now is NASA, I think, redefining its mission. And we've set a goal to let's ultimately get to Mars. A good pit stop is an asteroid. We haven't identified the actual asteroid yet, in case people are wondering. But the point is, let's start stretching the boundaries so we're not doing the same thing over and over again, but rather let's start thinking about what's the next horizon, what's the next frontier out there.

Twitter Town Hall, July 6, 2011



"What ties us TOGETHER is this idea that EVERYBODY has got a shot."

ON THE ISSUES

ROMNEY

Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, is the 2012 Republican Party candidate for president.









On American Values

What is it about America's culture that's led us to become the most powerful nation in the history of the world? Well, we believe in hard work and education. We love opportunity. Almost all of us are immigrants or descendants of immigrants who came here for opportunity. Opportunity's in our DNA. Americans love God, and those who don't have faith typically believe in something greater than themself, a purpose-driven life, if you will. And we sacrifice as Americans everything we have, even our lives, for our families, for our freedoms and for our country. These values and beliefs of free American people are the source of the nation's strength, and they always will be.

Speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Washington, February 7, 2008

People, not government, are the source of America's strength. There is no place that is more important to the future strength of America than the American home. The work that goes on within the walls of a home is the most important work that is ever done in America. And if we want to strengthen America, we need to strengthen the American family.

Campaign speech in Spartanburg, South Carolina, February 22, 2007

On Innovation

Government funding for basic science and research in universities and research laboratories has been declining for years. It needs to grow instead, particularly in engineering and the physical sciences. Research in energy, materials science, nanotechnology and transportation are vital to the economy and to our nation's competitiveness. Government should not, however, attempt to pick winning ideas or technologies in which it would invest funds for development and commercialization.

The realities of that marketplace sort out those that have potential for growth and sustainability and those that do not. Attempting to substitute government for the roles carried out by entrepreneurs, angel investors and venture capitalists while also bypassing the unforgiving test of the free market is a very bad idea indeed.

No Apology, a book by Mitt Romney, published March 2, 2010



On Space Exploration

I'd like to bring in the top professors that relate to space areas and physics, the top people from industry, because I want to make sure what we're doing in space translates into commercial products. I want to bring in our top military experts on space needs. And I'd like to come together and talk about different options and the cost. I'd like corporate America as well as the defense network and others that could come together in a partnership basis to create a plan that will keep our space program thriving and growing. I'm not looking for a colony on the moon. I'd rather be rebuilding housing here in the U.S.

CNN 2012 Republican primary debate, Jacksonville, Florida, January 26, 2012

"Government should not... attempt to pick winning ideas or technologies..."

YOUR GUIDE TO U.S. ELECTION **JARGON**

Caucus

A caucus is a local meeting where registered members of a political party in a city, town or county gather to show support for a candidate. Caucuses, unlike conventions, involve many separate meetings held at the same time at multiple locations.

A political party determines its nominees for statewide or national offices by the combined recommendations of its state caucuses.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have their own rules governing state caucuses. Those rules vary from state to state.

Electoral College

The Electoral College was established in 1787 as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and direct election by the people.

The number of electors varies by state. Each state is allocated a number of electors based on how many U.S. representatives it has—which is based on a population census conducted every 10 years—plus its two U.S. senators. In 2012, the populous state of California has 55 electors while less populated states such as Alaska and Delaware each have three. The process for selecting electors also varies state by state. Generally, state political party leaders nominate electors at their state party conventions or the state party's central committee elects them.

After Americans cast their votes in the presidential election, electors in 50 state capitals and in Washington choose the next president. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the president and vice president. The electors nearly always vote the same way in December as the voters in their state did in November.

General Election

In a general election, voters choose their candidate for federal, state and local offices. These candidates are either nominated by their political party, or

they run as independents. If they are independent, it means they are not affiliated with a major political party, such as the Democratic or Republican party. Voters can also choose to write in the name of a candidate they support.

General elections are run by the states, but the date for the general election is set by federal law. It is always the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Measures such as proposed legislation, referendums, bond issues (borrowing money for public projects) and other government actions also may be placed on the ballot. Each state has its own rules about what can be placed on the ballot.

Political Action Committee

A political action committee (PAC) is an organization that raises money for the campaigns of political candidates or causes it supports. It also raises money against political candidates or causes it opposes.

PACs are formed by business, labor or other special-interest groups. They are not officially supported by a candidate or political party. Such groups are prohibited from contributing their funds to the PACs they establish. However, employees or members of these groups may contribute.

Primary Election

A primary election is a contest in which a political party selects its candidates to run in the general election. The outcome is determined by the registered voters who cast their ballots at their local poll places.

For the presidential nomination only, voters select delegates to cast their ballots for a candidate at the party's national convention. For all other primary races, voters vote directly for a candidate.

Some primaries are closed. This A write-in candidate's name does not means they are restricted to voters who have registered their political party affiliations. In other words, only registered Republicans will be allowed

Affiliation

The act of connecting or associating with a person or organization.

Ballot

The official list of candidates running for office.

Candidate

A person who seeks or is nominated for an office.

Delegate

A person authorized to act as a representative.

National convention

A meeting held every four years by each of the major political parties to nominate the party's official presidential candidate.

Nomination

The act of submitting a name for candidacy.

The place where votes are cast and registered.

Referendum

A popular vote on a proposed public measure or actual law.

to vote in some primaries to select the Republican candidate for president. In open primaries, any registered voter is allowed to cast a ballot, regardless of party affiliation.

Like the general election, primaries are conducted by the states. Unlike the general election, states set the schedule for primaries.

Write-in Candidate

appear on the ballot in an election. Voters can vote for such a candidate by writing the person's name in a designated space on the ballot.

EVERYTHING (ALMOST) YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT U.S. ELECTIONS



How are federal officials elected?
Find an answer at the U.S. Library of
Congress website
http://goo.gl/ALXQw and other answers on the
website of the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs.



What political parties does the United States have? See http://goo.ql/dBgrz



How are U.S. voters changing? See http://goo.gl/OXyhY



What are primary elections about? See http://goo.ql/sSYfE



What are party conventions about? See http://goo.gl/qofbP

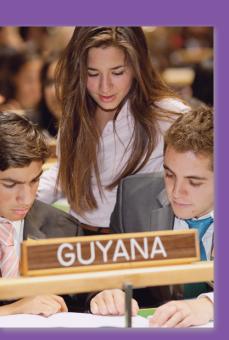


Who was the first U.S. woman elected to a national office? See http://goo.gl/Kvlz7



If the Electoral College is not a school, then what is it? See http://goo.gl/z83ta

everybody's talking...



"Before participating in this program, my view of the world was very simplistic. I refused to understand some situations. But now I can analyze them through a different perspective."

Florencia Antonella Mastroianni, Argentina

"The experience of Model UN has changed my life" Shareen Khaliq, United Kingdom

"I made really, really good friends. Model UN became my social circle." Beth Milton, United States of America

...find out what the buzz is about.

Coming in the Next Issue:

The Model UN Experience

Zachary

Taylor was

elected president.

JAMES BUCHANAN WAS THE ONLY PRESIDENT NEVER TO MARRY.

Five presidents remarried after the death of their first wives. Ronald Reagan was the only divorced president. Six presidents had no children. Our 10th president, John Tyler, had the most children (15).

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT

the oldest elected president

was Ronald Reagan

(age 69);

to appear on television, at the opening ceremonies for the 1939 New York World's Fair. Harry S. Truman was the first president to give a televised address, from the White House on October 5, 1947.

PRESIDENTIAL

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Barack Obama is the

FIRST AFRICAN **AMERICAN**

to be elected president of the United States. He was born in Hawaii, making him the first president not born in the continental United States.

Source: CNN

the youngest elected president

was John F. Kennedy (age 43). Theodore

Roosevelt, however,

was the youngest

man to become

president—he was 42

when he succeeded

the ASSASSINATED

William McKinley

FACES ON U.S. PAPER CURRENCY

Lincoln Washington Jefferson

Jackson

Grant

McKinley

Cleveland

Franklin D

Wilson

U.S. presidents Taylor

ATTENDED

COLLEGE

NEVER

Washington

Jackson

Van Buren

Fillmore

Lincoln

A. Johnson

Cleveland

Truman

eJournal USA • August 2012